

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)
Education Subcommittee**

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Via Conference Call

The Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 4:05pm

Commissioners Present: Tracy Locke, Pete Magnant, Shannon Turner, Sen. Randy Head

Commissioners Not Present: Sarah Ancel, Erin Oliver

Staff Present: Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

Invocation: Pete Magnant

Agenda Item: Native American College Enrollment

Kerry Steiner began by informing the Education Subcommittee that a request had been submitted to Commissioner Sarah Ancel from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) to determine how many Native American students are enrolled in Indiana colleges and universities, how many of those are enrolled members of a federally recognized tribe and if possible, to identify the tribe in which they are enrolled. A member of the public asked if the request to CHE could also include the number of the Native American students who are residents of Indiana.

Agenda Item: Native American College Scholarships

Kerry Steiner informed the Education Subcommittee that a new BMV requirement regarding the use of funds generated from the sale of specialty license plates was enacted in 2013. One of the areas outlined in that requirement is scholarships for Indiana residents attending Indiana universities. A discussion was started as to whether the INAIAC wanted to create a scholarship or contribute to an existing one. A member of the public asked if there are currently any scholarships specific to Native American students other than the one at IUPUI, which was later determined to be a \$1,000 scholarship entitled, "Sindoqua Scholarship for Native American Women."

Sen. Head commented that management and oversight of a scholarship can be cumbersome due to the application, screening and selection process. The Education Subcommittee agreed that if the INAIAC did create a scholarship then the student must be enrolled in a state or federally recognized tribe. The amount of money contributed to the scholarship by the INAIAC was discussed and Kerry Steiner mentioned that the average amount of license plate money generated over the last three years is between \$2,200 and \$2,500 per year, and the Education Subcommittee agreed that any contribution made by the INAIAC should not exceed the amount generated by the sale of the Native American specialty license plates.

A member of the public commented that they were involved in creating the Sindoqua Scholarship at IUPUI and that because this is the only Native American scholarship available in Indiana it prohibits students from other colleges or universities from applying for it. The Education Subcommittee discussed that creating a scholarship might be considered if oversight could be provided by an entity other than INAIAC. Sen. Head mentioned he has a colleague at the Indiana State University who is interested in INAIAC's initiatives regarding higher education.

Kerry Steiner added that she has reached out to this colleague and will do so again. A member of the public asked if CHE could oversee the scholarship if INAIAC created one.

Agenda Item: School Curriculum

Commissioner Turner expressed her concern about what is being taught in the classroom with respect to Native American history and culture, adding that most teachers “go by the book” because that’s the extent of what they know. Commissioner Turner suggested creating a survey to determine what teachers know and what they are teaching in the classroom, and that the survey could be launched as a pilot survey within the school where Commissioner Turner teaches and the Education Subcommittee agreed this was a good idea. Commissioner Turner added that she feels accurate information should be taught beginning at the preschool level.

A member of the public mentioned a conference was done about 15 – 20 years ago to “teach the teachers” and determine their knowledge base with respect to Native American history and culture. Commissioner Turner added that she would like to see education taught by cultural regions, meaning the Woodland Indians, Plains Indians, etc. Commissioner Magnant asked how much time is spent on Native Americans within the curriculum and Commissioner Turner responded that within her district the 4th grade students may spend 1 – 2 days on the subject then take a field trip to Conner Prairie, and the 5th grade students learn more about the cultural regions and spend the month of November on the subject of Native Americans. Commissioner Turner added that her district may be the exception since she is involved in assisting teachers on accurately representing the Native American culture, and that even less time is spent on this subject since Social Studies has been removed from the ISTEP testing. Commissioner Locke stated she does cultural presentations in her school district and a member of the public added that private schools spend more time on the subject. Another member of the public suggested INAIAC should confer with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) regarding what is taught in public schools, private schools, church schools, etc. Another member of the public added that the state of Washington passed legislation regarding Tribal Sovereignty curriculum and that Michigan has pushed for more in-depth studies on the topic of Native Americans.

A member of the public mentioned that the federal government just released the State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) grant and in order for a state to qualify for the funds a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the state and a federally recognized tribe must exist. Another member of the public stated information from the Miami and other tribes indigenous to Indiana should be acquired.

Kerry Steiner suggested creating YouTube videos so teachers could share information in the classroom. Commissioner Turner said she would like to see an interactive map of the United States created whereby when a person clicks on a particular state it links to the websites for the tribes located within that state. Commissioner Turner stated she would identify the tribe’s websites and a member of the public offered to create the interactive website, which would be based within the IDOE website. Kerry Steiner suggested that this interactive map be launched at the proposed teacher’s conference that would likely be held in 2016. It was suggested that members of Indiana’s tribes be invited to present at the conference. A member of the public asked when teachers must submit their budget requests, and it was discussed whether INAIAC could provide stipends to cover travel expenses. The overall agreement was that elementary teachers (K-6) should be targeted for the conference and that INAIAC would work with IDOE to help get the word out to teachers.

Agenda Item: Resources for Teachers

Commissioner Turner mentioned that most students do not realize there are 566 federally recognized tribes, which means over 500 languages exist, and that she would like to see a DVD created with one person/child from each tribe be videotaped saying a preselected phrase in their language, and a member of the public added that all Indiana tribes need to be included even if they are not federally recognized since the focus of this Commission is on Indiana's Native Americans. A member of the public said the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi could assist with this project as they have visited over 75 schools as well as inviting schools to their Reservation and they have found it's easier to invite the schools to visit their Reservation. The discussion then turned to creating an event whereby schools could attend and learn more about Indiana's Native American culture. Kerry Steiner stated she has already submitted a request to reserve Saturday, November 14, 2015, at the Indiana State Museum and that although Governor Pence has been invited, his schedule for that late in the year will not be confirmed until sometime in late August. It was suggested that maybe Friday, November 13, 2015, be set aside as Education Day so schools could more easily attend. It was also suggested that the event include Native Americans in regalia, vendors, etc.

The Education Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.